

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02398 301308 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 DPW-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01

NIC-01 /157 W

----- 063992

O R 301201 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3346

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BKK

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02398 301308 Z

56 SOW NKP
432 TRW UDORN
CDR JCRC NKP
ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA SVK LAOS
C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2398

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 30

CINCPAC FOR POLAD: MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 08: 7/13 AF,
432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI: MACTHAI FOR J2 AND PAO.

: VIENTIANE 2349

BEGIN SUMMARY:

MILITARY: GROUND ACTION IN LAOS 28-29 MARCH WAS LOW WITH TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS, BOTH FRIENDLY INITIATED IN MR III, AND 12 MINOR SHELLINGS/ ATTACKS MAINLY IN MRS II AND III. RLAF FLEW 10 SORTIES, 3 INVOLVING TROOPS IN CONTACT WITH ENEMY. (ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES MARCH 27, TOTALLED 89 ROUNDS
VFE X IN THAKHEK AREA
MR III. POLITICAL: PRIMIN ENCOURAGED BY MEETINGS WITH LPF NEGOTIATOR. SISOUK HELD PRESS CONFERENCE ON NVA TROOP MOVEMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. SECTION I - CEASE FIRE OBSERVANCE.

A. MR I - ONE MINOR ENEMY PROBING ATTACK WAS REPORTED 27 MARCH AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITION 26 KM NE OF LUANG PRABANG (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.
B. MR II - SEVEN MINOR ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITIONS WERE REPORTED: ONE NEAR THA VIENG 29 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES);
THREE IN BOUAM LONG SECTOR MARCH 28-29, (ONE FRIENDLY WIA); ONE SHELLING OF FRIENDLY POSITION 14 KM NE OF PA DONG (NO CASUALTIES); AND TWO SHELLINGS OF FRIENDLY POSITIONS 100 KM EAST NORTHEAST OF PAK SANE (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW FIVE T-28 SORTIES.
C. MR III- TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS, INITIATED BY FRIENDS, AND THREE MINOR ENEMY ATTACKS OCCURRED IN MR III. AT 0300 Z HOURS 20 MARCH FRIENDLY UNIT SUPPORTED BY 320 ROUNDS MIXED HOWITZER AND MORTAR FIRE LAUNCHED 8 HOUR ATTACK ON NVA POSITION LOCATED 14 KMS SE OF THAKHEK (VE995085). ENEMY HELD. (NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES). US OBSERVER
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 02398 301308 Z

REPORTED WITNESSING MAJOR FRIENDLY VIOLATION IN VICINITY BAN XIANG VANG (VD7995) MARCH 29. VILLAGE RECEIVED AT LEAST 45 ROUNDS FRIENDLY ARTILLERY (NO CASUALTIES REPORTED). 3 MINOR ATTACKS OCCURRED AROUND THAKHEK MARCH 28-29. (1 FRIENDLY WIA). RLAF FLEW 5 T 28 SORTIES.

D. MR IV - ONE MINOR CLASH OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN OCCURRED 29 MARCH 33 KMS NE OF KHONG SEDONE (NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW ONE AC-47 SORTIE IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT.

E. MR V - NO GROUND OR AIR ACTION REPORTED.

F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED 7 ADDITIONAL ENEMY VIOLATIONS, BRINGING TOTAL TO 328, AS OF MORNING 27 MARCH. (COMMENT: OUR COUNT OF GROUND CONTACTS INITIATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 72 MAJOR AND 430 MINOR INCIDENTS THROUGH 26 MARCH.)

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. PRIMIN ENCOURAGED BY MEETINGS WITH LPF NEGOTIATOR.

IN CONVERSATION, MARCH 29, PRIMIN PREDICTED FORMATION OF NEW PGNU BY LAO NEW YEAR, WHICH BEGINS APRIL 13. SOUVANNA NOTED TWO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN HIS HOUR-LONG MARCH 29 TALK WITH RECENTLY-RETURNED LPF NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH:

A) PHOUN HAS FULL POWER FROM SOUPHANOUVONG TO NEGOTIATE FORMATION

OF NEW GOVERNMENT; AND B) SOUPHANOUVONG'S LETTER, DELIVERED BY PHOUN, WAS CHARACTERIZED BY MUCH FRIENDLIER TONE THAN PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE. PRIMIN MET WITH PHOUN AGAIN MORNING MARCH 30. LPF NEGOTIATORS PHOUN AND SOUK VONGSAK MET WITH RLG COUNTERPARTS PHENG PHONGSAVAN AND NGON SANANIKONE AFTERNOON MARCH 30.

B. SISOUK PRESS CONFERENCE ON NVA TROOP MOVEMENTS.

DEFENSE DELEGUE SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK HELD PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH

30, TO EXPRESS CONCERN AT MOVEMENT OF NVA 335 TH REGIMENT OF 316 TH DIVISION SOUTHWARD FROM PLAINE DES JARRES TOWARD THA THOM-THA VIENG REGION. SISOUK STATED MOVE OF 335 TH WORRIES FAR BECAUSE NVA WOULD INTEND TO PUSH TOWARD MEKONG IN DIRECTION OF PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PAKSANE, 150 KM SOUTH OF VIENTIANE. HE ADDED THAT RLG WOULD REACT WITH ALL MEANS POSSIBLE IF THIS MOVEMENT CONTINUES. SISOUK ALSO MENTIONED ENEMY TROOP MOVEMENTS IN SALA PHOU KHOUN : BUT SAID THESE WEREN' T SO WORRISOME AS ACTIVITIES SOUTH OF PDJ. ELSEWHERE IN KINGDOM, SISOUK NOTED, SITUATION IS FAIRLY CALM. SISOUK ALSO REFERRED TO LPF PROCRASTINATION IN INTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HE ASCRIBED TO DRV DESIRE TO MAINTAIN ITS UNITS INHO CHI MINH TRAIL STRUCTURE, FREE OF POSSIBLE ICC INSPECTION. FOR A WHILE LONGER.

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PAGE 04 VIENTI 02398 301308 Z

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, LA
To: CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA INFO BANGKOK
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
MULTIPLE
PARIS

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